



# Technology Administration

## Overview

### Mission Statement

The Technology Administration's mission is to work with U.S. industry to maximize technology's contribution to U.S. economic growth by maintaining and improving key components of the Nation's technological infrastructure; fostering the development, diffusion, and adoption of new technologies and leading business practices, creating a business and policy environment conducive to innovation; and disseminating technical information.

The Technology Administration (TA) comprises the Office of the Under Secretary and Office of Technology Policy (US/OTP), the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and the National Technical Information Service (NTIS).

- US/OTP operates under the authority of 15 U.S.C. 3704, which establishes the positions of Under Secretary for Technology and Assistant Secretary for Technology Policy and provides the basic authority for preparing technology policy analyses, industry studies, policy experiments, and associated reports.
- NIST operates under the authority of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 271), which modifies The Organic Act that created the National Bureau of Standards (NBS) in 1901. Several important legislative changes were adopted in 1988. In addition to renaming NBS as NIST, the changes include the establishment of Regional Centers for the Transfer of Manufacturing Technology (15 U.S.C. 278(k)) as well as the establishment of the Advanced Technology Program (15 U.S.C. 278(n)). Separately, the National Quality Program was established and its functions assigned to NIST by the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Improvement Act of 1987 (15 U.S.C. 3711(a)).
- NTIS operates under the authority of 15 U.S.C. 3704(b), which authorizes NTIS to perform several functions, including: to establish and maintain a permanent repository of non-classified scientific, technical, and engineering information; to make selected bibliographic information products available to depository libraries; to collect, translate, and disseminate unclassified foreign scientific, technical, and engineering information; to implement new methods or media for the dissemination of scientific, technical, and engineering information; and to maintain the responsibilities enacted in 1950 (at 15 U.S.C. 1151).

### Strategies and Activities

TA is an integral part of the Department of Commerce team. In pursuing its mission and responsibilities, TA assists the Department in building for the future and promoting U.S. competitiveness in the global marketplace by strengthening and safeguarding the Nation's economic infrastructure, as well as by providing cutting-edge science and technology and a world-class information base.

